

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

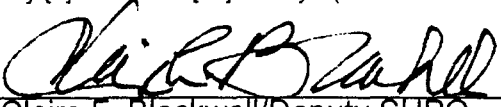
historic name Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1/2 mi. SE of jct. Mo. Hwy. P and Co. Rd. 129B [n/a] not for publication
city or town Kirksville [x] vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Adair code 001 zip code 63501

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[x] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties
in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR
Part 60. In my opinion, the property [x] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this
property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [x] locally. (See continuation sheet for additional
comments [].)


Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

8 Dec. 00
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

[] entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet [].

[] determined eligible for the National
Register

See continuation sheet [].

[] determined not eligible for the National
Register.

[] removed from the National Register

[] other, explain see continuation sheet [].

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		contributing	noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	6	0 building
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	0	0 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	0 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0 objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	7	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/animal facility

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/storage

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/storage

RECREATION & CULTURE/musical facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: foursquare

OTHER: round barn

see continuation sheet [].

Materials

foundation concrete

walls wood

brick

stone

roof asphalt

other

see continuation sheet [].

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet [x]

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

Periods of Significance

1910-1919

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.0 acres

UTM References

A. Zone 15	Easting 537510	Northing 4452670	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title See continuation sheet
organization _____ date _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Daniel and Judith Vogt
street & number Route 5, Box 8 telephone (660)665-1649
city or town Kirkville state Missouri zip code 63501

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Summary: The Orie J. Smith Black and White Stock Farm Historic District is located about three miles northeast of Kirksville (Route 5, Box 8) in Adair County. The eight acre, approximately rectangular district on the north side of Highway P consists of seven contributing properties--six buildings and a structure. The properties represent the core of the former Orie J. Smith farm, which specialized in black cattle and white hogs. The centerpiece of the farmstead is an uncommon round bank barn with a self-supporting dome roof, constructed in 1913. The other buildings in the district are the farmhouse, an American Foursquare with Prairie School affinities (1917), a granary (1910), a poultry house (1918) and two ice houses (both 1919). A concrete bridge (1914) is counted as a structure.¹ With its concrete posts, stone fences and fields, the picturesque setting resembles a designed landscape. The properties are obviously linked by their proximity and related agricultural functions, as well as by the extensive use of concrete and stone. Although livestock are no longer present and the barns are empty the properties retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Consequently, the farmstead today continues to reflect its period of development in the second decade of the 20th century.

Elaboration: Most of the Orie J. Smith Black and White Stock Farm Historic District is readily visible from Highway P, from which it is entered via a curving gravel drive partially lined with Scotch pines. About halfway into the district, the drive crosses a poured concrete bridge over a small creek which meanders across the property more or less diagonally from southwest to northeast. Throughout the district and beyond, concrete corner posts still divide the farm into individual lots and fields. In addition to the pines, oak, maple and willow trees are found within the district. The farmstead today is essentially residential property. Local musical events such as blues festivals have been held in the round barn and the current owner is considering using the building as the setting for a dinner theater. The relationship of the farm properties to the surrounding landscape is threatened by a proposed expansion of Missouri Highway 63. The proposed route includes an off-ramp to be constructed south of the barn. Keyed to the site map, the contributing properties are as follows:

A. **Round Bank Barn.** Constructed in 1913, this large and impressive building, 64 feet in diameter and 64 feet high, sits west of the driveway into the district. The Smith barn contains approximately 6,434 square feet of floor space and is capable of holding an estimated 100 tons of loose hay. Topped with a hexagonal cupola, the balloon frame building stands on a concrete foundation and consists of a lower tier of oversize rock-faced concrete blocks, a middle tier of Masonite siding, and a self-supporting dome roof which is covered with asphalt shingles. There are two small gabled dormers, one on the south and one on the east. Framing members throughout the barn are primarily yellow pine. The basement floor is poured concrete and the upper deck is wood.

Easily the most conspicuous building in the district, the barn was adapted from a plan which originally included a central silo. The silo was never built and other modifications to the plan are probable, since it was customary for farmers to individualize their barns, but the barn stands today largely as it was constructed. The Smith barn is primarily linked to the other district resources by its proximity to them and as a necessary component within the farmstead, rather than by the conspicuous use of poured concrete and cobblestones. Concrete is present, however, in the form of ornamental concrete blocks which constitute the basement level walls.

Like most bank barns, the Smith barn was built on a gentle hillside. This placement facilitated the unloading of hay or straw into the mow for the animals that were housed in seven oblong stalls in the basement. The basement of the Smith Barn has two entrances, one on the south and one on the east, with original curved double sliding doors, each with two small windows. A similar entrance to the hay mow is on the west. Internally, the basement and hay mow areas are connected by a staircase just east of the barn's center.

Windows in the basement are paired, four-light, single sash units that tilt back into their casements at the top to provide ventilation while keeping rain out. These window openings are arranged around most of the perimeter just

¹ Construction dates and most other farm-specific details were provided by Benjamin R. Smith, a son of builder Orie J. Smith and his wife Essie. Benjamin R. Smith, one of three children, was born on the family farm and spent most of his life there.

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Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

below the sided portion which encloses the hay mow. Windows in the hay mow, primarily square, single sash, four-light units, are spaced at regular intervals just below the roofline. A large rectangular opening in the upper west wall served as a hay door. Half of the six windows in the cupola slant inward at the top for ventilation. The gabled dormers contain single sash windows with four lights.

Rafters for the dome roof, triple layers of 1 x 8 boards spliced together, are sawed on the back side to make them curve sufficiently. No supplementary bracing is used. The cupola, from which a pulley was operated to lift hay to the top of the stacks, is constructed of heavier stock. Just below the cupola is a central hub into which the rafters are woven. The hay shaft extends from the hub to the basement floor. Metal tracks facilitate the distribution of hay virtually anywhere on the mow floor. A circular hay track is attached to the interior roof about 25 feet above the floor and two horizontal tracks are located about 40 feet above the floor.

In the basement, the area below the central hay shaft is occupied by a hexagonal granary/feed bin with a water trough. A central stairway leads from the basement to the main floor. Mules and horses as well as hogs and cattle were housed in the basement stalls and pens. Water for the barn and adjacent feed lots was gravity-fed from a pond on a nearby slope west of the house and barn.

The original roofing consisted of wood rather than asphalt shingles and the original exterior wall material for the hay floor has been covered with Masonite, but in most other respects the round barn stands relatively unaltered.

B. Foursquare House: Constructed in 1917, the Smith House measures 38 feet by 30 feet and has an essentially cubic shape although the plan is asymmetrical with a one-story west wing. The southeast corner of the main floor has a half-width open porch with an enclosed sleeping porch directly above, with corner piers. A terrace extends from the open porch and an attached two-car garage is off the northeast corner. The house has a full (raised) basement with an outer wall consisting of cobblestones set in concrete resting on a concrete foundation. The first floor exterior wall consists of paver bricks chipped to give them an uneven rocklike surface. A concrete beltcourse separates the cobblestone and brick layers. The second floor wall surface is stuccoed. The house is topped with a hipped roof covered with red tile.

The main entrance is centered in the 30-foot east facade where the open corner porch is located. The entrance has sidelights with beveled glass. The oversize front door also contains beveled glass. All first floor windows have concrete lintels and lugsills. A double-hung 1/1 window is south of the entrance and a pair of double-hung 1/1 windows is centered in the end wall north of the entrance. The fenestration pattern upstairs is similar to that on the main floor. Upstairs windows have wood lintels and lugsills. The garage is attached to this facade.

Although the Smith House is obviously based on a simple Foursquare plan, it is more elaborate than the basic Foursquare and Prairie style affinities are suggested by various elements. Typical Foursquare characteristics that are missing include a one-story porch across the facade and dormers. Mainly, Prairie affinities are seen in the sense of horizontality resulting from the continuation of the cobblestone and chipped brick wall surfaces into both the terrace and the attached garage. The low-pitched hipped roof with wide eaves adds to the horizontal effect, and the beltcourse reinforces it further. The contrasting wall materials--which are contrasting in terms of both color and texture--also enhance the impression of horizontality.

Although the main entrance is on the east facade, the 38-foot south elevation is more public, with a flight of concrete steps leading to the open porch at the east corner. The flight is anchored by square endposts with sidewalls constructed of cobblestones and topped with a concrete coping. On the main floor, fenestration consists of two pairs of double-hung 1/1 windows with nonoriginal metal awnings plus a single window in the rear south wall of the corner porch. The paired windows are replacements set in the original openings. Single double-hung windows are centered above the main floor windows on the second floor and square windows are below them in the cobblestone basement wall. A door to the basement and the first floor is at the southwest corner of the facade in the one-story brick wing.

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Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Each floor of the north elevation has three double-hung windows arranged one above the other except for the basement which is below grade. A seventh double-hung window (for the staircase landing) is offset between the stucco and brick portions. The north end of the one-story wing is windowless.

The west elevation is broken by the brick wing. The wing has a red tile roof similar to the main roof. Three windows are on the first and second floors while the basement wall is unwindowed.

The interior is essentially unaltered, although a colonnade between the living and dining rooms was removed to increase the impression of space in 1955 and an atomic bomb shelter was constructed in the basement in 1960. A portal incorporating tapering square wood posts and set at an angle opens onto the living room from a small foyer. The house contains its original millwork. The first floor consists of a living room, library, kitchen and bathroom. The main staircase off the central hall leads to the basement as well as upstairs. Upstairs are three bedrooms, a family room and a bathroom. Other stairs lead to the basement, and outside, from the kitchen.

The bomb shelter, a cell-like room with wood shelves and a bunk supported by metal rods and chains, was constructed where a wood storage room had been located in the northwest corner. Built from plans purchased by the owner, the room has a metal ceiling with eight inches of sand intended to absorb heat and radiation from a nuclear explosion. The entrance has no door but the thick concrete wall is curved and offset. Apparently the doorless opening was intended to block direct exposure to the flash of a blast.

C. Granary. This 48-by-60 foot balloon frame building, built in 1910 in the form of a three-portal transverse crib barn, is located northeast of the house. The granary is the oldest property in the district. Walls are board-and-batten sided and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There are three gabled dormers on the long west and four on the long east elevation. A cupola with a hipped roof, windows on all four sides and a spike-like finial is centered on the ridge. The basically identical north and south elevations contain two sliding doors for each side aisle and one large central sliding door. Double-hung 4/4 windows are centered in the upper gables and fixed four-pane sash are in the four corners. Some of the sliding doors also have windows. The east elevation has outside pens with six individual doorways into a swine raising area. The west wall is windowless.

The central aisle is approximately a dozen feet wide. Bins for grain storage comprise most of the interior space along the east wall and a floor scale and elevator system occupies the rest. The elevator, installed at the time of construction, remains functional and is unaltered. A corn crib occupies the entire west wall. A set of wooden stairs leads upstairs to the haymow.

D. Poultry House. The 1918 poultry house is a brick-and-frame building with a half-monitor roof. It is located northwest of the granary. It measures 14 feet by 24 feet and has a concrete foundation and floor. The poultry house is constructed largely of materials left over from the present farmhouse plus siding and other materials from a razed two-room log house. The log house stood just behind the existing farmhouse. Walls are sided with clapboard and chipped paver bricks similar to those on the house. The raised section of the roof (the south elevation) contains four fixed windows. The main south wall contains five double-hung 4/4 windows and, at ground level, two small wood doors for allowing chickens in and out of the building. Regular entrances with four-panel doors and double-hung 4/4 windows are in the similar east and west gabled ends. The north elevation is sided exclusively with clapboards and has no openings. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

E. Ice Houses. Two circular ice houses made of concrete, approximately 12 1/2 feet in diameter and eight feet high, are the northernmost properties in the district. Both were constructed in 1919 from the same wooden form that was used to shape the farm's cistern. Each ice house has a four panel door facing southeast and a double-hung window facing southwest. One ice house has a 4/4 window and the other has a 6/6. The doors and windows were recycled from the log house that occupied the approximate site of the present farmhouse. The ice houses have pyramidal roofs with asphalt shingles.

F. Bridge. In 1914, a concrete bridge with a double culvert was constructed across a narrow creek southeast of the farmhouse. Over the years the foundation was reinforced and the bridge widened to accommodate larger,

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**Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri**

heavier farm machinery and wider automobiles, but the bridge today still looks much as it did in a photograph taken in circa 1914, the year that it was poured. The bridge is on the gravel drive from Highway P into the nucleus of the farmstead.

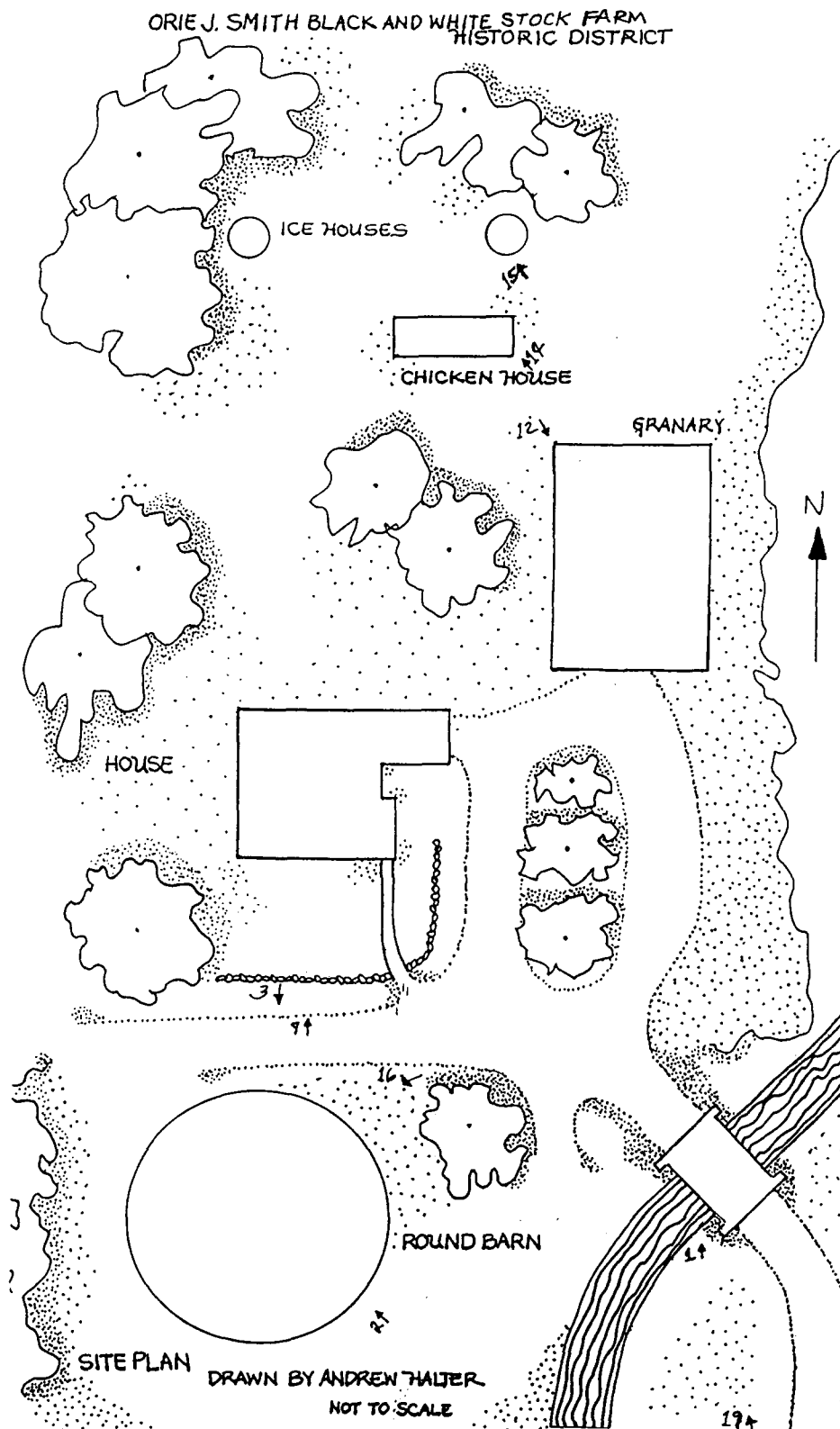
Concrete and stonework are unifying materials throughout the district, found not only in most of the properties that occupy the nucleus but also in the form of small constructed objects ranging from fence posts to a picnic table. All of the concrete was mixed and poured into forms made at the site. Both the picnic table and a well (constructed of concrete and stone) are in the yard north of the farmhouse. West of the farmhouse are remnants of a water garden that once had five motor-powered fountains and a lily pond, later used as a flower bed. A small rock garden and a concrete cistern poured from the same forms as were used for the two ice houses are near the farmhouse. The yard is enclosed on the south and east sides by a cobblestone wall with concrete posts. Concrete end posts are present in the district as well as throughout the surrounding Smith acreage. Wrapping around the northwest corner of the house is a cobblestone flower bed which is still filled with evergreens originally planted to provide added blast protection for those inside the fallout shelter.

The Orie J. Smith Black and White Stock Farm Historic District contains only contributing resources, all dating from the second decade of the 20th century, within their original setting. Because alterations have been few and relatively minor and the setting is largely unchanged, the district possesses sufficient evocative power to suggest the period during which all of the properties were constructed.

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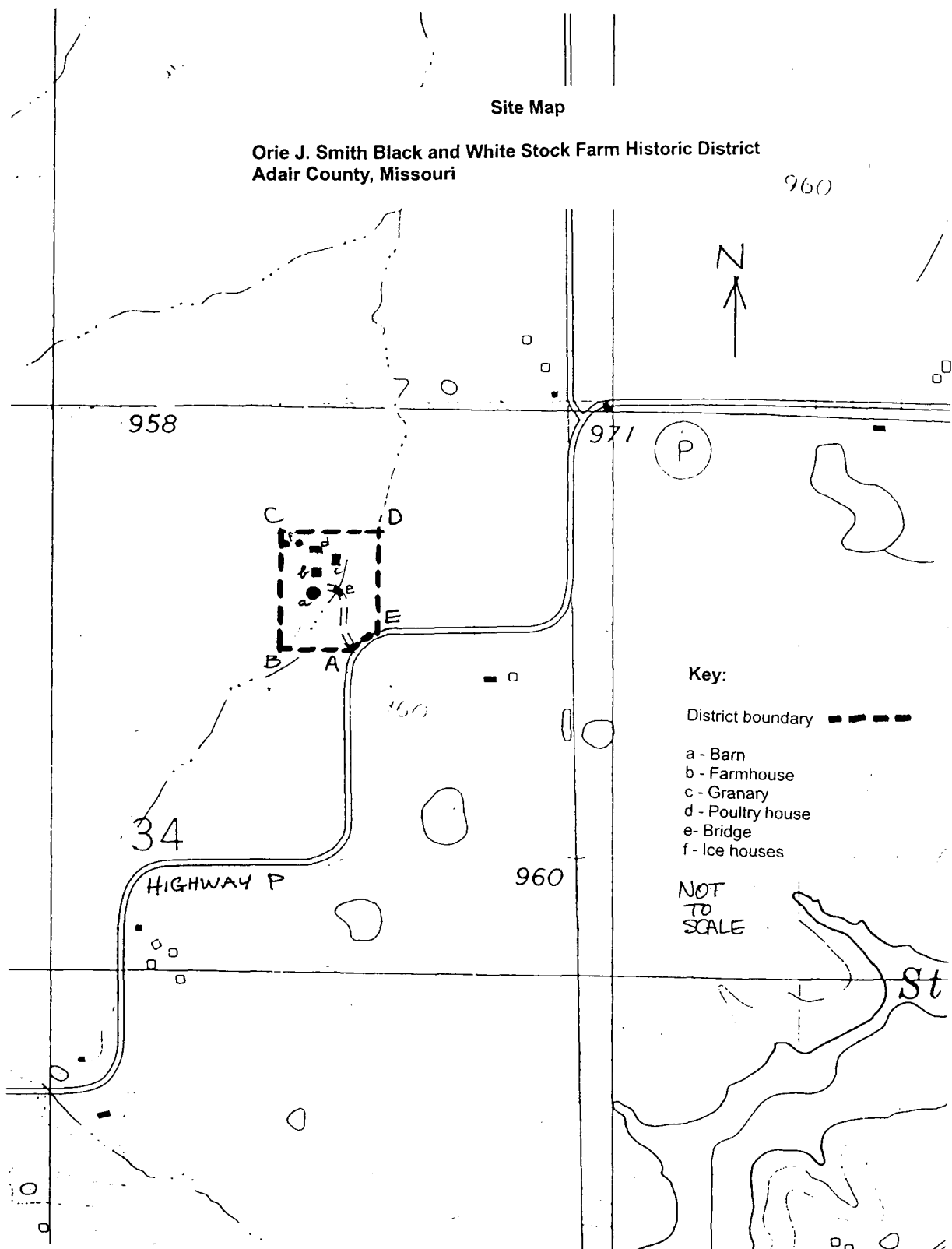
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Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

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Summary: The Orie J. Smith Black and White Stock Farm Historic District, located about three miles northeast of Kirksville, Adair County, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Highlighted by the only true round bank barn with a self-supporting dome roof within the four surveyed counties of Northeast Missouri, the eight acre tract contains an exceptional grouping of seven early 20th Century agricultural properties which constitute the nucleus of what had been a 120-acre farm.² The locally significant resources reflect the innovation, ingenuity and taste of their progressive farmer-builder, Orie J. Smith. While the barn is the centerpiece of the district, Smith, who also built a fine example of an American Foursquare farmhouse with strong Prairie style affinities, a granary with a cupola, a poultry house with a monitor roof, two concrete ice houses and a concrete bridge, all intact and well preserved within the district. While much of Missouri remains unsurveyed, no barn variation comparable to the nominated resource has been identified in the state. Conspicuously used throughout the farmstead, cobblestones and concrete reinforce the visual linkages. The name of the farm, once prominently displayed on the side of the round barn like a billboard, signified that all of the stock bred and raised by Smith--registered Aberdeen-Angus cattle and Chester White and American Hampshire swine--were either black, white, or black and white combined. The period of significance, 1910-1919, is based on construction dates of the nominated properties.

Narrative: The farm's owner Orie J. Smith was born in Brown County, Illinois, on May 7, 1875. In 1889 Smith came to Adair County, Missouri, with his parents Benjamin and Connie R. Omer Smith. After attending a local public school, Orie Smith continued his education by taking a business course at the Kirksville Business College. Later he worked at an implement business in Kirksville, then went to Illinois where he farmed for a few years before returning to Adair County to operate the farm that his mother inherited upon the death of his father in 1894. In 1908, Smith and his mother purchased 120 acres of farmland including the nominated property three miles northeast of Kirksville. Smith continued operating the farm after his mother's death two years later, apparently living in an existing two-room log house on the property and erecting, in 1910, the granary that stands today.

Smith married Essie Holmes in 1912 and the next year, 1913, constructed the district's round bank barn using plans obtained from Iowa. (Perhaps the plans were purchased from William Loudon or M. L. King, two Iowa-based designers and publishers of plans for round barns.) Initially the round barn form is said to have been highly recommended to Smith by a local livestock specialist, Phil Pully of Memphis, Missouri. Smith hired carpenters for the more complicated work, the head carpenter receiving \$2 a day and his assistants \$1 a day. Smith apparently modified the barn plan somewhat, eliminating a central silo; Smith already had a large granary and probably considered a silo unnecessary. He is said to have driven his team and spreader in a circle to determine the floor space and capacity that he wanted. Whether the barn's dimensions were reduced or enlarged as a result and whether other modifications were made is unknown, but most of the work was done with hand tools and the project took approximately one year to complete. The barn cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Smith's son Benjamin R. Smith made and installed the barn's circular gutter some 45 years ago, welding individual foot-long pieces together.

Hay was unloaded from wagons that drove in one door and out the other, making a circle. A fork was attached to a carrier that ran on a circular track high in the dome. The fork dropped down and lifted bales of hay from the wagons, depositing them throughout the storage area. Ben Smith recalled times when he saw the barn filled with hay from floor to roof, an estimated 100 tons. From the mow, the hay was tossed down the center shaft to feed the stock on the floor below.

Both cattle and hogs, registered breeds, were raised on the farm. Ben Smith recalled raising about 400 hogs in an average year, certainly a respectable number even if cattle had not also been a focus of the farm.

²In a 1985 architectural survey of Adair County by the Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission, the Smith barn was described by Roger Boyd as "an unusually fine example of a rural architectural form that was never very common and appears to be the only remaining round barn within the county." No comparable example with a self-supporting dome roof has been identified within the surveyed counties of Missouri.

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Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

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Eventually cattle were phased out and only milk cows were kept. Corn was the main crop, rotated about every five years. A hillside pond supplied water via trenches for the round barn and adjacent feed lots.

In 1914, continuing to improve and develop the farmstead, Smith poured a two-culvert concrete bridge to simplify the crossing of a small creek on the property.

In 1917, apparently with considerable design input from his wife Essie, Smith erected the American Foursquare house with Prairie style affinities that stands today. Essie Smith, the daughter of local contractor A. L. Holmes, is said to have drawn the house plans. Bricks used as a veneer in the first floor wall—chiseled on one side to give them a distinctive stonelike surface—are believed to have come from a brickyard in Moberly. The cobblestones used in the basement wall and elsewhere on the farmstead were obtained from a neighbor, James Bradley. Although the house was wired for electricity at the time of its construction, commercial electric power was not available on the farm until around 1941. However, Orie Smith soon installed a three-horsepower gasoline engine in the basement which provided energy for such things as pumping water, sawing wood, washing clothes, churning butter, etc., while simultaneously charging batteries which allowed electric lights to be turned on at night. Technologically, at the time it was built, the Smith House was probably years ahead of most other rural homes in Adair County.

There were two other Smith children, David H. And Ora Viola, but it was Smith's son Benjamin and his wife Marie Jodine Smith who purchased the property in 1950. They had three sons and farmed the land until 1984. Benjamin Smith also continued his father's development of the property in various small ways, such as by building a water garden west of the house with five shooting fountains operated by a motor. Orie J. Smith died on May 21, 1963.³

In the early 1960s, at a time when nuclear war seemed imminent to many Americans, Benjamin Smith added a highly distinctive feature to the house: an atomic bomb shelter. Determined to protect his family from the effects of a blast, Smith purchased plans for a shelter and constructed it in a corner of the basement, complete with a ceiling topped with eight inches of sand which was supposed to absorb heat and fallout. Shelves originally held containers of water and canned goods, and for awhile the cell-like shelter was equipped with maps and a battery-powered radio. None of his neighbors built bomb shelters, according to Smith. Today, however, Smith believes that pouring concrete for a bomb shelter was a waste of time since it never had to be used. But the shelter remains a significant relic of the Cold War since, apparently, relatively few were actually built and even fewer are intact today.

A log house just behind the present house in which the family had been living was dismantled following completion of the Foursquare. Smith salvaged siding and other material from the log house and reused it in and on the poultry house that he built the next year, 1918. Smith also used paver bricks similar to those he chipped for the new house. Smith built two concrete ice houses the next year, 1919, using the same round form that was designed for the cistern. In winter, chunks of ice were cut from the farm pond, placed on thick layers of sawdust and covered with additional sawdust for insulation. The chunks were also separated from each other by sawdust. When other forms of refrigeration became more practical, the ice houses were used for storage and as animal quarters.

Except for two years spent in the Army, Benjamin Smith said his only job has been operating the farm. Smith said it was a typical family farm: "You lived on it, worked on it, and ate the products that you raised on it." After his father died, Smith said he considered that it was his responsibility to keep up the barn. Although Smith recently sold the barn and other buildings in the eight acre nucleus, he said, "I took the barn as far as it would go: to my tombstone." Smith had a likeness of the barn embossed on his tombstone.

³ Kirksville Daily Express, May 23, 1963.

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Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

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Agricultural Significance: Livestock was the chief product on most Missouri farms at the turn of the century and, a few years later, the Orie J. Smith farm with its emphasis on registered cattle and swine apparently had become a model farm in the Kirksville area of Adair County.⁴ In the 1911 History of Adair County, Smith was described as having "one of the finest herds [of American Hampshire and Chester White Swine] in Northeast Missouri."⁵ This was early in the history of the farm, after construction of the granary but before construction of the round bank barn. Later Smith added registered Aberdeen-Angus, black beef cattle with short legs and short, wide heads to his farm's collection of livestock. All three breeds were advertised on what must have been an early billboard in Adair County: the broad, curving side of Smith's dramatic new barn.

As livestock breeding expanded rapidly in Missouri during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, crop rotation and other modern agricultural techniques were widely promoted. As a progressive farmer during the years when agriculture became increasingly scientific, Smith was clearly receptive to the improved farming techniques that were recommended by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and touted in farm journals and handbooks. Smith's farm itself is the evidence of his receptiveness to modern agricultural methods. The buildings are well-placed on the landscape, taking advantage of the contours, and their spatial relationships to one another seems well-balanced and anything but random. Ditches carried water downhill from a pond to key areas of the farm. The buildings are neat and attractive and, in the case of the round barn, striking as well.

At the time of the 1910 census there were no paved roads in Adair County but there was a good road system. The location of Smith's farm along a public road just three miles from the markets of Kirksville, the seat of Adair County, with its local market and rail facilities, was perhaps ideal for the practice of agriculture not so much for survival but as a business. The principal crops were corn, wheat, oats and grasses of various kinds for hay and pasturing. Corn was the most important crop in all parts of the county, but especially in the northeastern section where stock raising was especially popular. Kirksville was the principal market for all of Adair County's surplus farm products. The total population of the county in 1910 was 22,700.⁶

In 1910, the typical farm in Adair County was well-improved and well-equipped. Woven wire fences and cross fences were common. The farmhouses were modern with surrounding lawns and shade trees. There was usually a home orchard and a well-kept garden. Other improvements typically included one or more large, neatly painted barns, hog houses, poultry houses, a garage and other outbuildings. Farms ranged in size from a few acres to several hundred acres but there were few larger farms. The most common size for a farm in Adair County was 160 acres but the average size was 111 acres.⁷ At 120 acres, the Orie J. Smith farm was slightly larger than average for the county.

Even before the addition of registered Aberdeen-Angus cattle later in the decade, the Smith farm was considered to have one of the area's finest swine herds. The expansion of Smith's stock raising activities to include premium cattle undoubtedly bolstered the farm's reputation even further. Travelers on the nearby county road could hardly fail to read the prominent sign which proclaimed: ORIE J. SMITH BLACK AND WHITE STOCK FARM/REGISTERED ABERDEEN-ANGUS CATTLE/AMERICAN HAMPSHIRE & CHESTER WHITE SWINE. Orie J. Smith was justifiably proud of his progressive farm.

⁴ Agricultural census data for individual farms are not available for the period of the Smith farm, so direct comparison with other farms in the area in terms of such things as acreage, value and productivity would be very difficult.

⁵ E. M. Violette, History of Adair County (Kirksville, MO: Denslow History Company, 1911), p. 677.

⁶ Thirteenth Census of the United States. Volumes IV and V, Agriculture Part I and II (Washington: U.S. Census Office, 1912), p. 408.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 415.

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Architectural Significance: Farm buildings--their sizes, shapes and how they are arranged on the landscape--often were unique physical expressions of their owners needs, desires and traditions. These needs, desires and traditions were often tempered by such things as available finances, the type of building materials available locally, and of course by climate and topography. In 1910 when Orie J. Smith began constructing the seven properties that today constitute the Orie J. Smith Black and White Stock Farm Historic District, there were exactly 2,696 farms in Adair County. Probably none of them came close to resembling the Smith farmstead with its distinctive combination of a true round bank barn, a Prairie-influenced Foursquare house with a red tile roof and contrasting layers of materials, a granary with a cupola, a poultry house with a monitor roof and two circular ice houses within a landscape studded with concrete fenceposts. Not only are true round barns uncommon in Missouri regardless of roof type, but the dome roof on the Smith Barn is a particularly rare variation in neighboring Iowa (and probably other states as well).⁸ The Smith properties are clearly related by their architecture and stand out on the landscape as the nucleus of a progressive, medium-sized farmstead in Northeast Missouri in the early 20th Century. A high level of craftsmanship was obviously involved in their construction. In addition, the properties are well-preserved and retain integrity. As a group, they are significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

In the U.S., farming at the subsistence level required few if any outbuildings. In general, the number of outbuildings increased but remained small and specialized as farming evolved from subsistence into a more market-oriented economy. These early, specialized outbuildings included such things as hay barns, corn cribs, livestock shelters and storage sheds and over time were likely to grow to resemble "a small crowded village." By the last half of the 19th century, however, many farmers were constructing relatively large, multipurpose barns as advocated by writers like Byron D. Halsted in his 1881 Barns, Sheds and Outbuildings: "The old custom was to build small barns, to add others on three sides of a yard, perhaps of several yards, and to construct sheds, piggens, corn houses, and such minor structures as might seem desirable.....Compared with a well arranged barn, a group of small buildings is inconvenient and extremely expensive to keep in good repair."⁹ In general, these larger barns were of two basic types: general purpose or feeder barns and two-story basement or dairy barns. In the first type, the barn was used for general storage and to house farm vehicles as well as for the storage of crops. In the second type, cattle were typically housed in the basement with hay stored upstairs. In the bank barn variation of the second type, exemplified by the Smith Barn, the barn is built into the side of a hill or a bank is created by building up an earthen ramp so that both levels can be entered from grade.¹⁰

True round barns have been traced back at least to circa 1826, when the Shaker community at Hancock, Massachusetts, constructed one that was destroyed and then rebuilt on the same foundation in 1865. These massive, timber frame Shaker barns, 270 feet in circumference, were well-publicized but apparently seldom imitated. Thanks to its greater flexibility, the development of lightweight balloon framing with nailed joints (later in the 19th century) made the construction of circular and other polygonal barns much more feasible to the average farmer. Such barns were touted by agricultural colleges and experiment stations for their superior efficiency over rectangular or square forms and, beginning in the 1880s, attracted the interest of progressive farmers who may have been attracted to the form because they seemed more scientific or simply because they believed that they would get a bigger return on their investment. Initial acceptance of the true round barn was largely due to the engineering research carried out by Franklin H. King, a physics professor at the Wisconsin Agricultural College

⁸ Only six true round barns have been identified in Missouri, along with ten polygonal examples. With the exception of the Smith Barn, none of the identified round or polygonal buildings has a domed roof. According to architectural historian Lowell J. Soike, Iowa had only four barns with dome roofs, out of a total of 127 true round and polygonal barns still standing in 1983. See Lowell J. Soike, Without Right Angles: The Round Barns of Iowa (Des Moines: Iowa State Historical Department, 1983), pp. 31, 75.

⁹ Byron D. Halsted, editor, Barns Plans and Outbuildings (New York: Orange Judd Co., 1881), reprinted as Barns, Sheds and Outbuildings (Brattleboro, VT: The Stephen Greene Press, 1977), p.13.

¹⁰ Michael J. Auer, "The Preservation of Historic Barns," Preservation Brief 20 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Preservation Assistance Division, 1989), pp. 2-3.

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and Experiment Station. It was King, the author of a textbook on agriculture, who constructed "the first of a generation of true-circular silo barns, characterized by balloon-frame construction..."¹¹

Multi sided barns, which typically were octagonal but could have any number of sides from six to fourteen, predated the circular barn.¹² True round barns differed from the earlier octagonal forms in four main ways. In the true round barn, interior stalls had to be arranged in a circle while octagonal barns were arranged on the inside much like rectangular barns. Also the true round barn had a self-supporting roof instead of a hipped roof, wood for walls was usually replaced with concrete blocks, clay tile, poured concrete or metal, and uses of true round barns were often more specialized than for octagonal and other forms. However, the more tradition-bound farmers were not likely to abandon the standard rectangular or boxlike forms perpetuated by their ancestors.¹³

Round barns had their share of proponents including the United States Department of Agriculture. Selling points included greater structural stability, a more efficient interior layout since the farmer could work in a continuous direction, increased storage space resulting from the lack of supporting elements in barns with self-supporting roofs, and a savings of material compared with traditionally shaped buildings.¹⁴ Opponents cited such things as difficulty of construction, difficulty of lighting, difficulty of constructing additions, wasted space and higher construction costs because framing the round is complex and time-consuming. To construct a true round barn with a dome roof almost certainly required the services of an experienced carpenter, while rectangular or square barns were simpler to build and most farmers could handle the project with no expenses beyond the necessary lumber and hardware.¹⁵ Like the original Shaker barn, the Smith barn was designed large enough to allow a wagon to be driven in and out without having to turn around.

Round and polygonal barns were likely to be built through the 1920s, particularly in the Midwest. But the round barn never really overcame its bad press: "Enough criticism, faint praise, and outright optimism circulated to keep most farmers cautious and uncertain and to confine the round barn's acceptance to only a few venturesome souls. It took a stalwart disposition to put up a round barn with all one's neighbors were building rectangular barns. The large number of unconvinced farmers prompted writer S. C. Burt to accurately prophesy in 1919: 'The round barn is not common...and probably never will be very popular. One may find one or two, perhaps, in a day's drive across country--say in 200 miles.'"¹⁶

Barns with self-supporting dome roofs like the Smith Barn were generally constructed between 1900-1930, as indicated by the Iowa study. Their timespan in Missouri was probably about the same, so it can be assumed that the 1913 Smith Barn was constructed near midpoint for the type. Presumably the three-decade range reflected the period when such roofs were most highly touted by their proponents.¹⁷ According to Sculle and Price, both construction and debate about the relative merits of nonorthogonal barns of all types peaked in the 1910s.¹⁸

¹¹ John T. Hanou, A Round Indiana (West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 1993), pp. 14-15.

¹² Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures (New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1995), pp. 120-121.

¹³ Soike, op cit., pp. 31-32.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Soike, op cit., pp. 58-59.

¹⁶ Soike, op cit., p. 58.

¹⁷ Soike, op cit., p. 42.

¹⁸ Keith A. Sculle and H. Wayne Price, "Barns of Nonorthogonal Plan" in Barns of the Midwest (Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1995), p. 205.

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Dome roofs required that the rafters be curved, which was accomplished by partially sawing through the upper portion of the boards to make them flexible. Much more common, apparently, were conical or multiple-pitched roofs. Eleven different roof shapes and sizes were possible, depending on the skill and imagination of the carpenter-builder. In addition to a choice of roof shapes, the farmer had many other variables to consider so it is unlikely that any two of these barns were quite alike. Smith, who is known to have used the services of a crew of carpenters in the construction of his barn, tailored what was apparently a professionally drawn plan to satisfy his real or imagined needs. Smith, for example, eliminated the inside wood silo which had become a fairly standard feature in round barns but retained a central hayshaft. Structurally, the hay shaft adds support between the basement and ventilating cupola. But by eliminating the silo which he apparently did not need, Smith saved on construction costs and gained additional floor space for storage.¹⁹

The 1917 Smith House exemplifies the American Foursquare house with Prairie style affinities. The popularity of the boxlike Foursquare in the late 19th and early 20th centuries has been correlated with a nationwide trend toward restrained ornamentation as a reaction against Late Victorian exuberance. Compared with Victorian complexity, the Foursquare was plain and straightforward. Numerous examples were built in America between 1890 and 1930 in both suburban and country settings. Like vernacular forms, Foursquares were typically built by more or less average people who chose the form because it seemed familiar and possessed connotations of comfort. Foursquares were among the house types commonly offered in the form of prepackaged kits by mail order companies such as Sears, Roebuck and Company, Montgomery Ward and Aladdin.²⁰

The plan of the main floor was often identical to that of the second, with four equal-size rooms on each level. The main interior variations were in the placement of the staircase, kitchen and bathrooms. After about 1910, some mail order plans offered more complicated arrangements. Other variable elements such as the placement and size of porches and exact roof shapes changed the external appearance subtly but did not affect the overall cubic dimensions, providing a tiny bit of flexibility to an otherwise somewhat restrictive format. After about 1900, individualized versions became increasingly common. The massive appearance of the Foursquare appealed to what Gowans calls "the need for stability and solidity" while representing both independence and self-sufficiency. Its interior organization reflected a time when cost effectiveness and efficiency were popular concepts, and it satisfied those buyers who wanted the most for their money.²¹

Originating in Chicago at about the turn of the century, the Prairie style is considered one of the few indigenous American styles. Frank Lloyd Wright was a pioneer in the style, with most examples being built between 1905-15. Wright believed that the basic box was too basic unless something could be done to give it style—but not "a style" so much as style per se, sensibly relating the house of modest cost to its environment.²²

Smith must have shared an awareness of the form's architectural possibilities with his wife Essie who is said to have literally designed the house. Presumably the Smiths desired to construct a building that, like the round barn erected nearby four years earlier, would be aesthetically pleasing while meeting their daily needs as a family. Like the barn, the house stands out dramatically on the landscape. An awareness of Wright's preference for designing buildings that blend with their natural settings can be inferred from the different textures and, in particular, from the cobblestone basement wall that makes the house seem to emerge from the ground. With its contrasting surface materials and strong sense of horizontality, the Smith House adds architectural interest to the district and is an integral component of the farmstead.

¹⁹ Interview with Benjamin Smith.

²⁰ Alan Gowans, The Comfortable House (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986), pp. 84-87.

²¹ Gowans, op cit., pp. 84-87.

²² Frank Lloyd Wright, The Natural House (New York: Horizon Press, Inc., 1954; published as a Mentor Book, 1963), p. 69.

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Architecturally, the Orie J. Smith Black and White Stock Farm Historic District stands as an excellent example of an early 20th century farmstead in its original setting. Within the eight acre nucleus encompassed by the district boundaries, the round bank barn with a dome roof is a rare and well preserved example of its type. The Smith House exemplifies an American Foursquare with Prairie style affinities and strong owner input into the design. The outbuildings and concrete bridge are similarly interesting, unique properties reflecting the times and circumstances of their original construction. The properties would function well as a district even without the unifying use of owner-poured concrete in the form of a bridge, ice houses, cisterns, fence posts and various other small objects, and to a lesser extent cobblestones.

Criteria considerations would apply because of its age, but with a circa 1960 atomic bomb shelter in the basement of the house, an argument for significance in the area of social history almost certainly could be justified.

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Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Wooden Nickel Productions Presents

'Round Barn Blues'

Featuring...

Charlie Love

and the *"Silky Smooth Band"*

B.J. Allen Band
MAHONEY BROTHERS

Saturday Sept. 30

2 mi. east on Rt. P

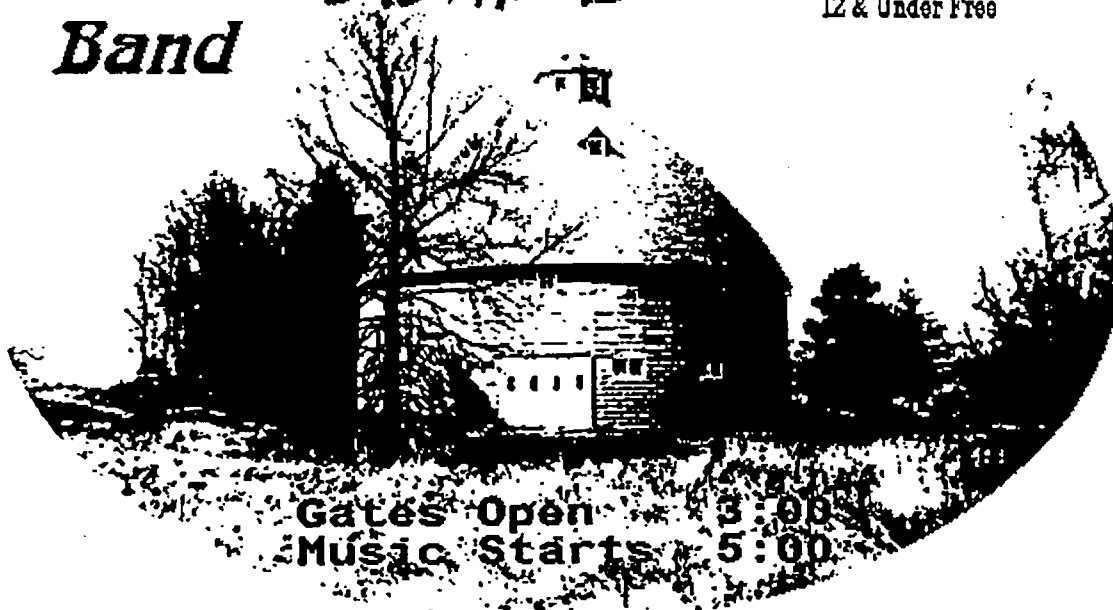
Kirksville, MO

Advanced Tickets - \$8

\$10 at the door

(Non-refundable)

12 & Under Free



Hickory Smoked BBQ & Beverages Available

No Coolers - No Video Cameras

Tickets Available at:

Circle M Music - Kaleidoscope
Kirksville Auto Glass
Wooden Nickel Restaurant
Woody's

Custom Auto Glass of
Chillicothe, Hannibal, Keokuk & Mexico
Memphis - Parker Print & Pray, Gae & More

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

Except for a concave southeast corner, the Orie J. Smith Black and White Stock Farm Historic District is an approximately rectangle-shaped tract of eight acres in the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter and the northeast quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 34, Township 63 North, Range 15 West, Adair County Missouri. Beginning at the property line on the west right-of-way of Highway P (Point A on Site Map), proceed west 273.93 feet to Point B; then proceed north 683.4 feet to Point C; then proceed east 520.81 feet to Point D; then proceed south 653.12 feet to the north right-of-way of Highway P (Point E); then proceed in a southwesterly direction along the concave north right-of-way of Highway P to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the extant properties that were constructed by Orie J. Smith within the eight acre nucleus of his stock farm. This is sufficient acreage to be evocative of the original 120 acre farm. (The remaining 112 acres farmed by Smith are owned by Smith's son Benjamin R. Smith.)

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Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs except as noted:

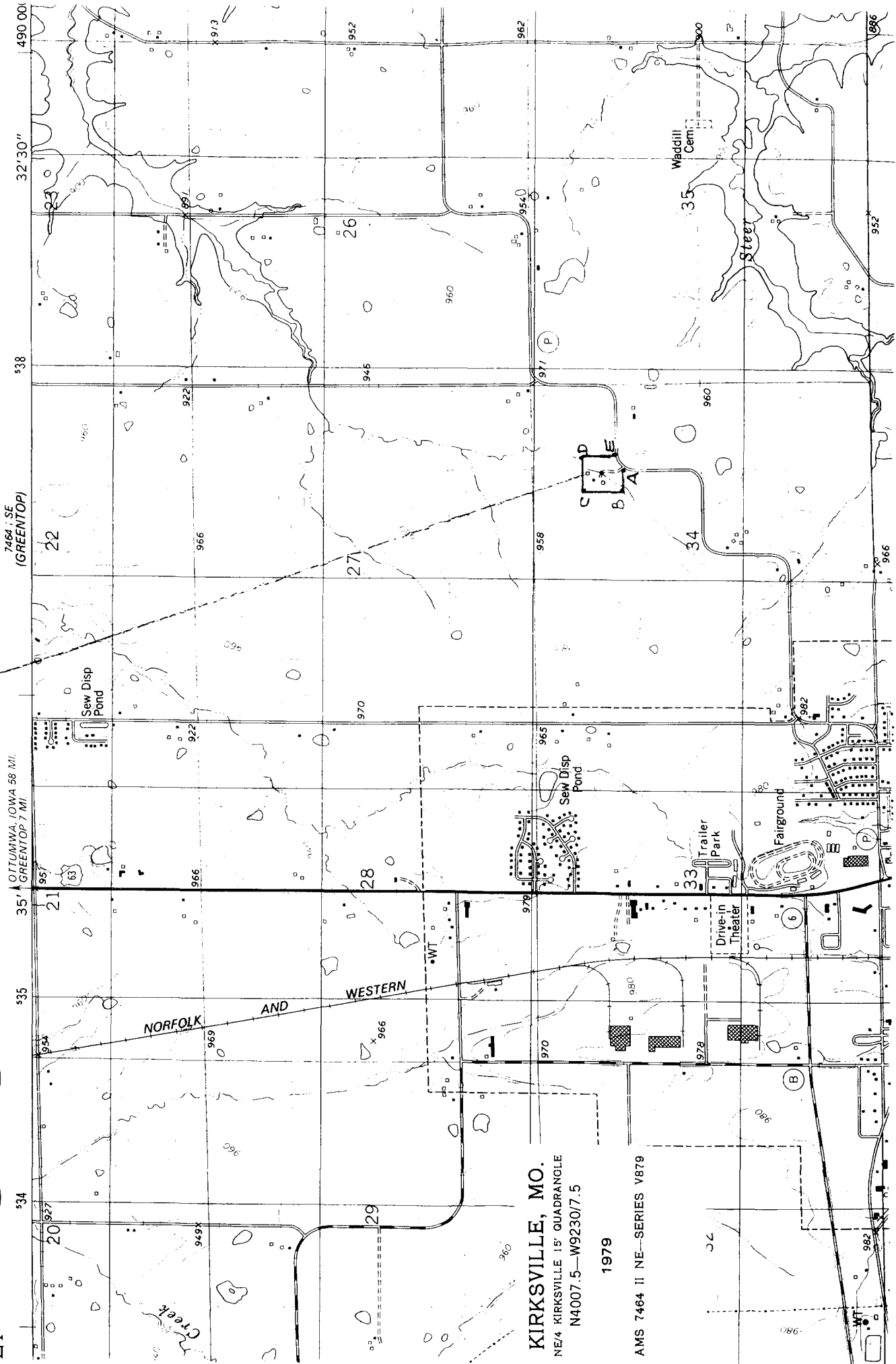
Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Kirksville vicinity
Adair County, Missouri
Roger Maserang #1-#13; Andrew Halter #14; Unknown #15
July 2000 #1-14; circa 1914 #15
Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory
Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City

1. Bridge, house and granary, facing north.
2. Round barn east elevation, facing west.
3. Round barn north elevation, facing south.
4. Detail, barn window.
5. Interior, round barn basement showing cattle stalls.
6. Interior, round barn basement showing central granary/feed bin.
7. Interior, round barn hay mow showing hay shaft.
8. Interior, round barn showing cupola and dome framing.
9. South facade of house, facing north.
10. Living room view, facing northeast.
11. Bomb shelter in basement of house.
12. North and west elevations of granary, facing southeast.
13. Interior of granary, facing east.
14. South and east elevations of poultry house, facing northwest.
15. Southeast elevation of east ice house, facing northwest.
16. Well and barn, facing southwest.
17. Concrete fence post.
18. Smith gravestone depicting round barn in Park View Memorial Gardens east of Kirksville.
19. Historic view (circa 1914) showing round barn, original house (razed), concrete bridge and granary.

SMITH, ORIE J. BLACK AND WHITE STOCK FARM
HISTORIC DISTRICT - ADAIR CO., MISSOURI
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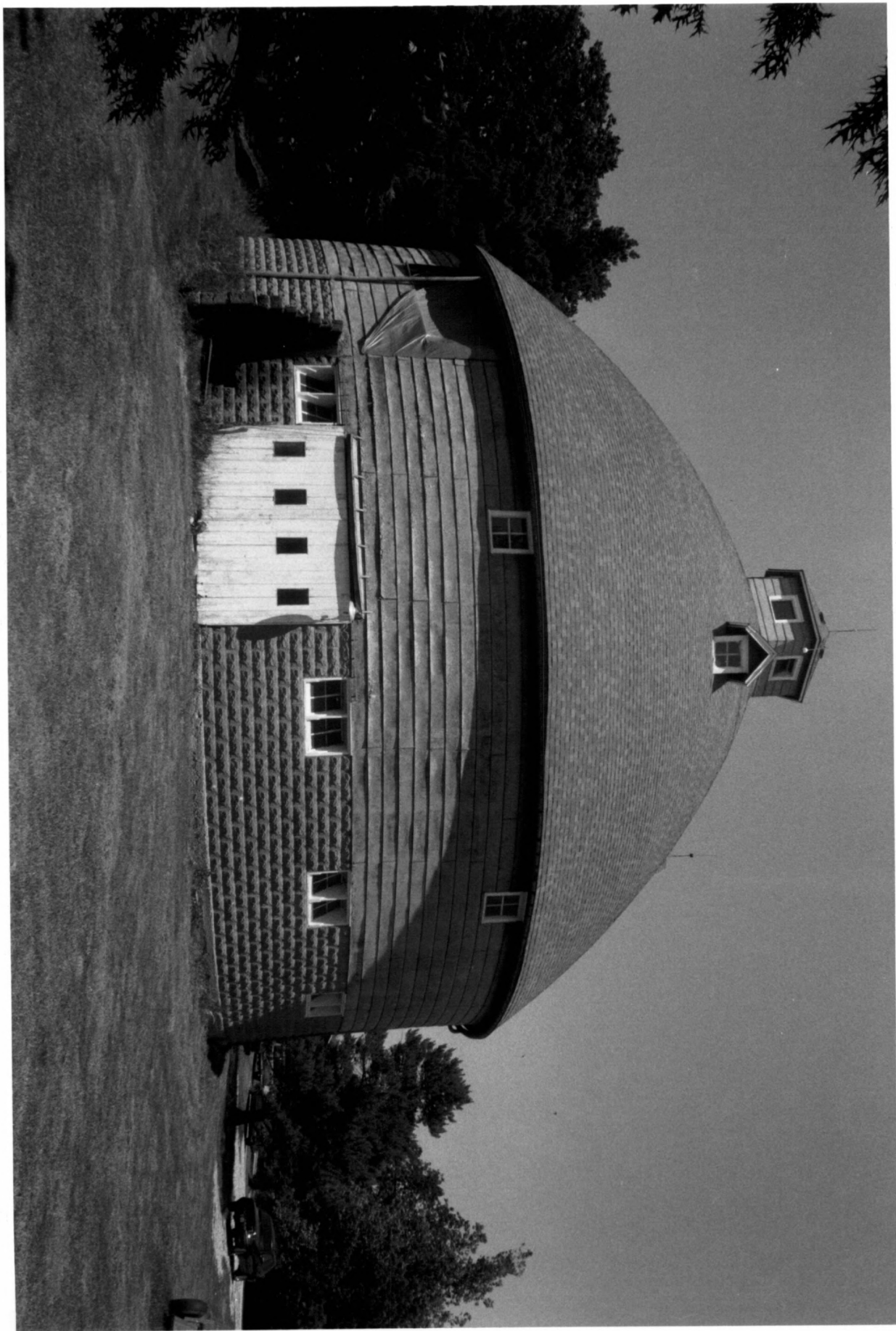
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NE 1/4 KIRKSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
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1979

AMS 7464 11 NE-SERIES V879



Smith, Orrie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri
Photo: 1



Smith, One J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Photo: 2



SMITH, ORIE J., BLACK AND WHITE STOCK FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT
ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI

PHOTO: 3



SMITH, ORIE J., BLACK AND WHITE STOCK FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT
ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI

PHOTO: 4



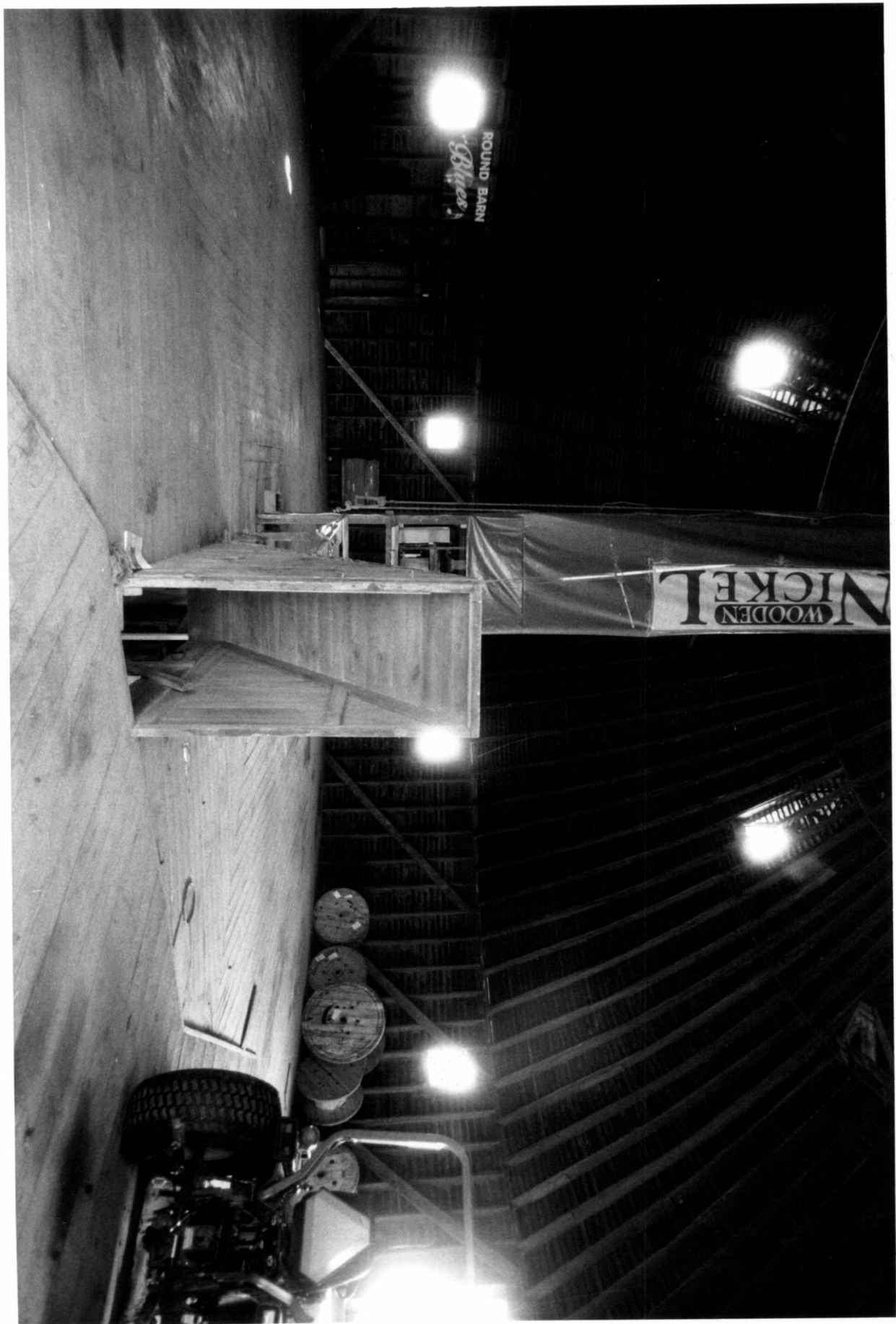
Smith, Orie J. Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Photo: 5



Smith, One J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Photo: 6



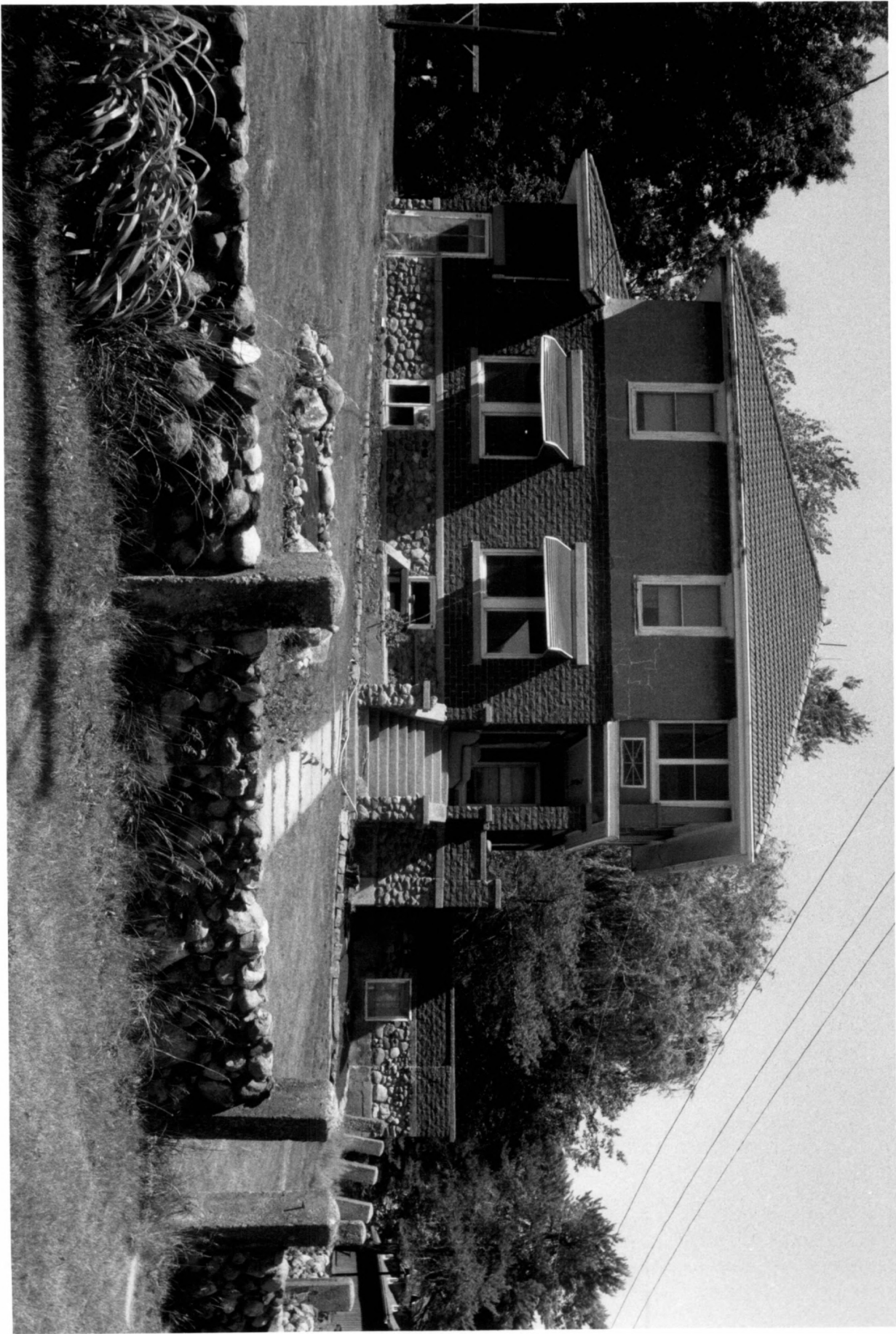
Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Photo: 7



Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Photo: 8



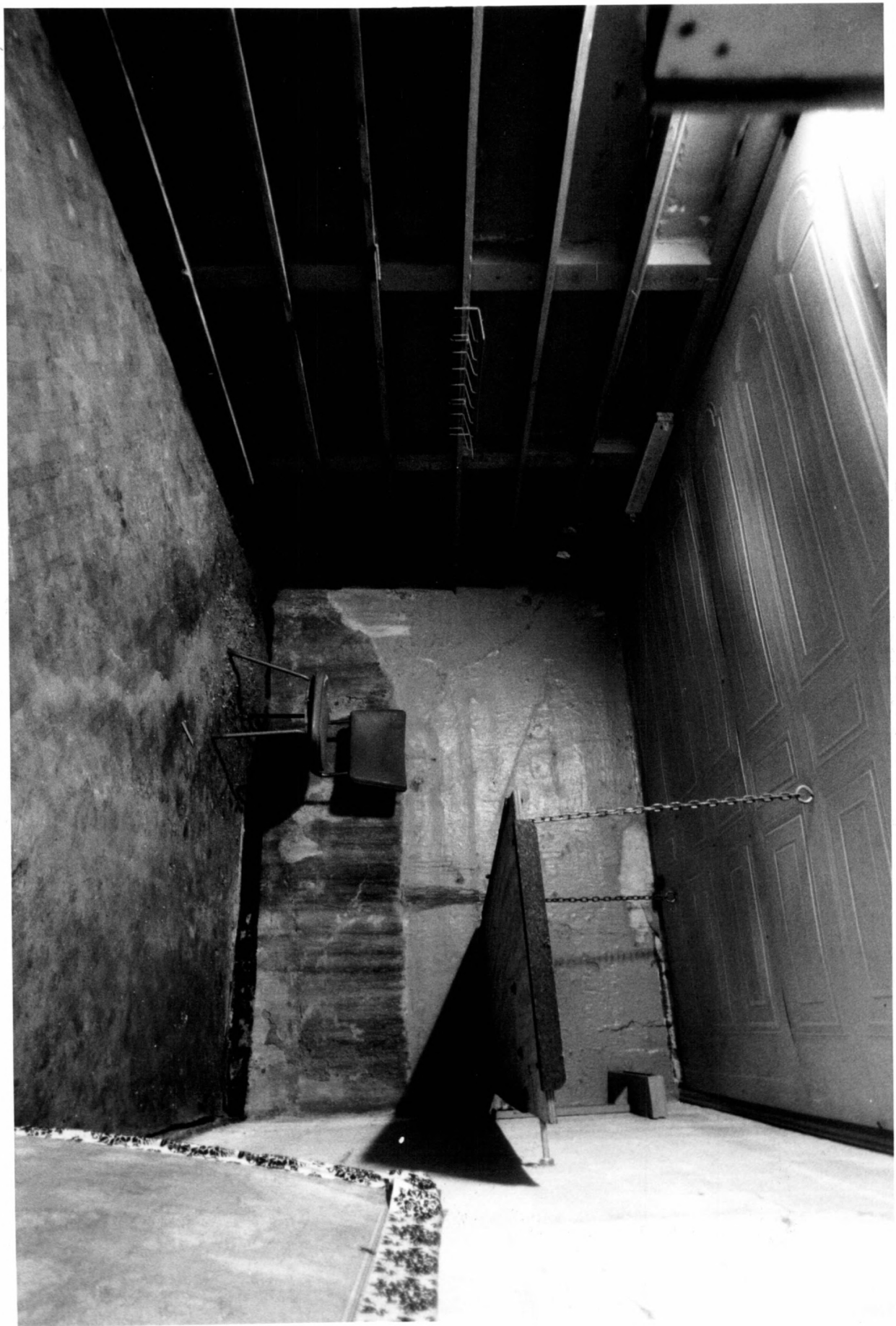
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Adair County, Missouri

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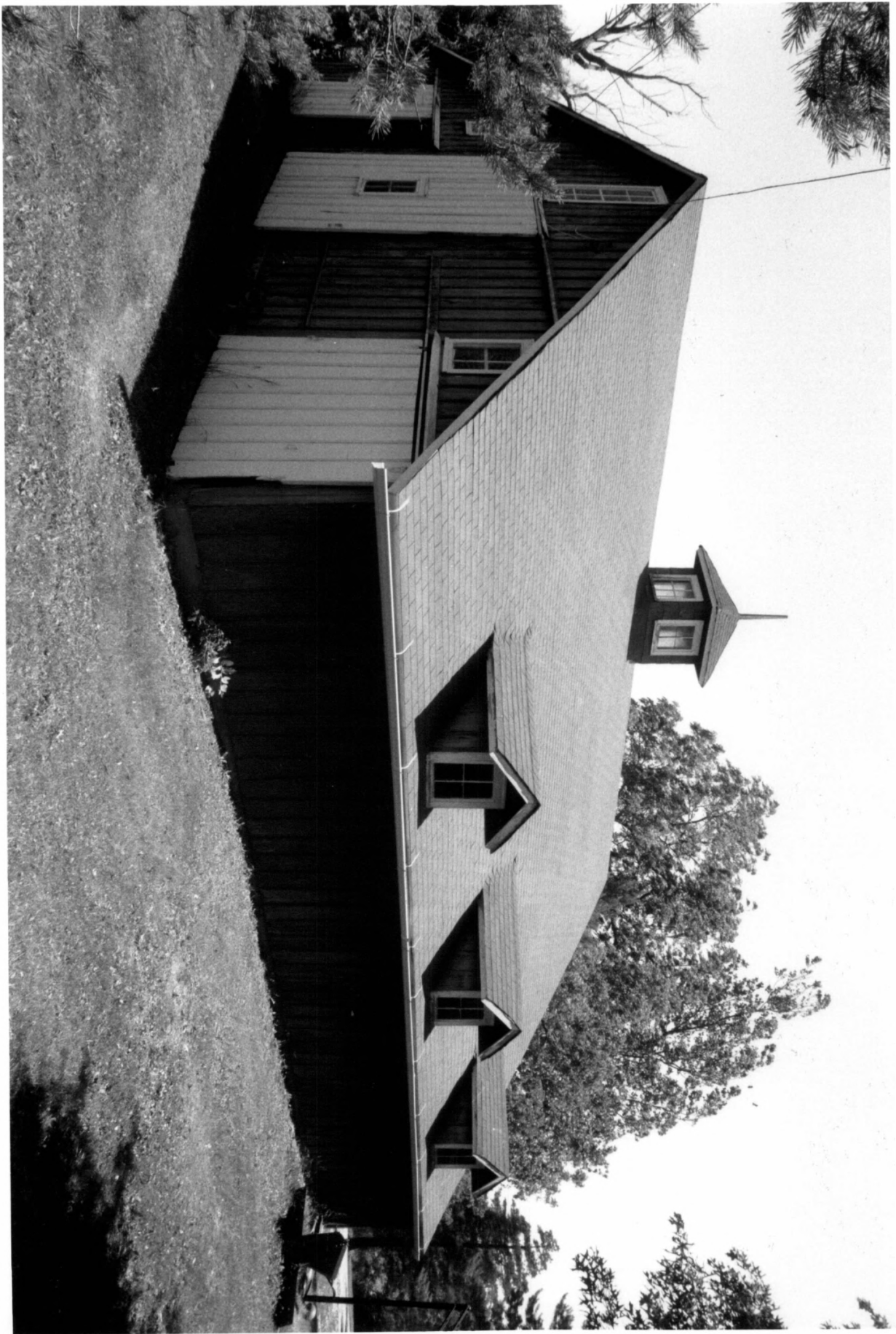
Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Photo: 10



Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

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Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Photo. 12



Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Photo: 13

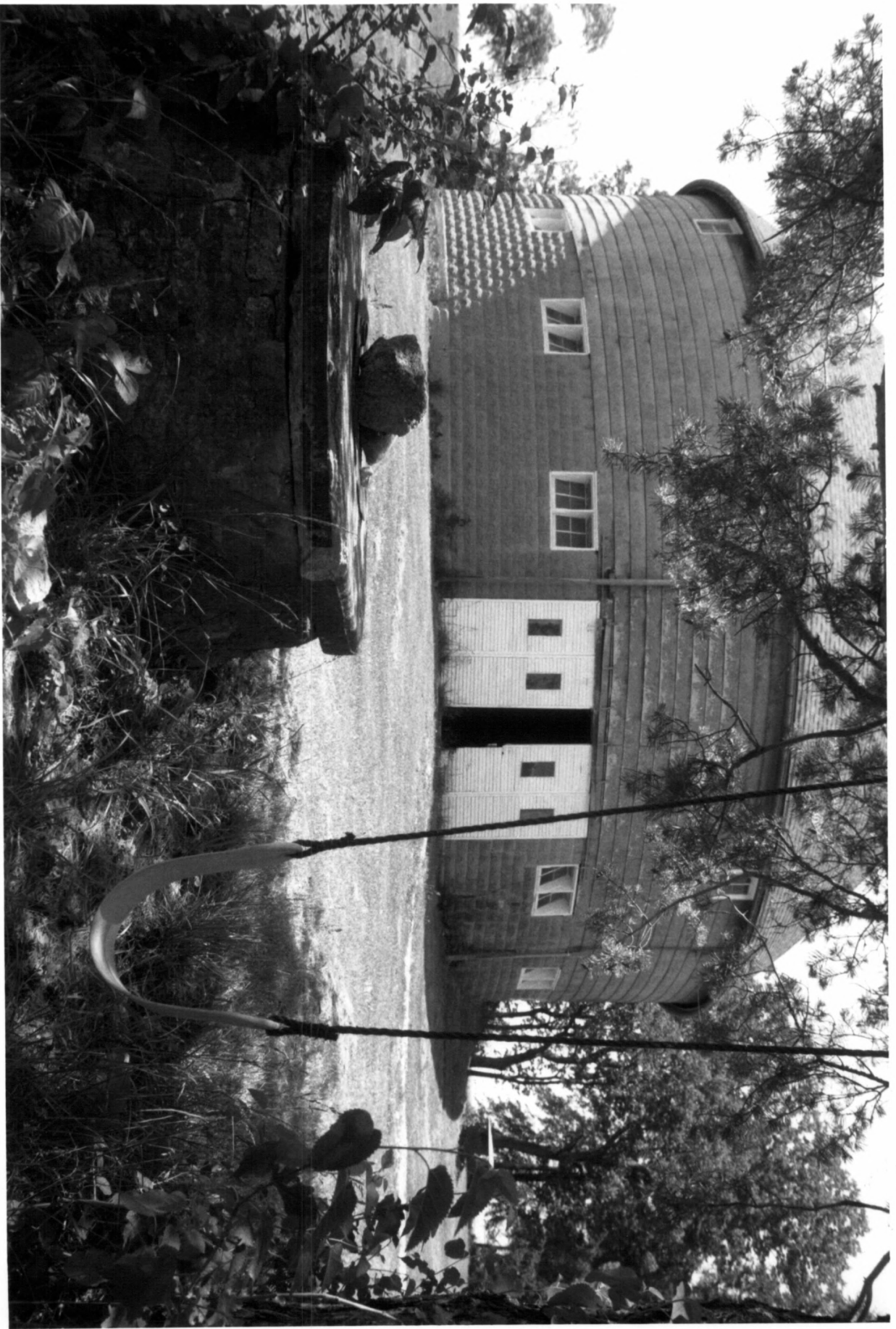


Smith, Orie J., Black and white stock farm historic district
Adair County, Missouri
Photo: 14



Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Photo: 15



SMITH, ORIE J., BLACK AND WHITE STOCK FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT
ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI

PHOTO: 16



SMITH, ORIE J., BLACK AND WHITE STOCK FARM HISTORIC DISTRICT
ADAIR COUNTY, MISSOURI

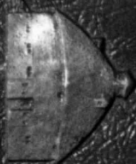
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BENJAMIN R. SMITH

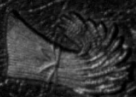
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1915



Smith, Orie J., Black and White Stock Farm Historic District
Adair County, Missouri

Photo: 18

